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THE 2003 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RESOURCE RECOVERY FUND BOARD, INCORPORATED

• PRINTED ENTIRELY ON RECYCLED MATERIAL WITH VEGETABLE-BASED INKS

• FEATURING FINANCIAL REPORTS, RECYCLING TIPS, SOLID WASTE GLOSSARY

No.
MMIII

RRFB Nova Scotia 2003 Annual Report

PROGRESS UPDATES
For the 5 Mandates of the RRFB

RECYCLING TIPS, COMPOSTING SECRETS

Message from the Chief Operating Officer

■ Fiscal 2003 was a year of progress and success across all mandates of the RRFB, as we continued to manage and administer a solid waste-resource strategy that has made Nova Scotia the environmental envy of the world.

An almanac seems a fitting way to capture the energy and enthusiasm of fiscal 2003. RRFB Nova Scotia has closely watched and tended the growth of our waste-recovery initiatives through our five-mandate structure – planting the seeds of education and awareness, harvesting 233 million beverage containers through our deposit and refund system, branching out into new areas of industry stewardship and value-added recycling, and spreading funding to Nova Scotia's 55 municipalities. Not unlike a farmer or a gardener, waste recovery is tied closely to our environment, and we all reap the rewards and benefits.

RRFB Nova Scotia provided $5.6 million in diversion funding to Nova Scotia's municipalities in fiscal 2003. This money was used for a variety of functions, contributing to successful waste diversion programs throughout our regions. From vermicomposting the food waste of HRM's administrative staff, to continued advances in quick-service restaurant source separation on the South Shore, to the first-ever convictions for contravening waste bylaws in the province, the events of fiscal 2003 proved once again that the success of Nova Scotia's waste management lies at the grassroots level.

Our success in waste diversion in this province is due in no small part to the vision of our environmental champions of industry. RRFB Nova Scotia has stewardship agreements in place with a variety of industry partners. We enjoyed a successful first year of our paint recycling program, as thousands of litres of used paint was made new again. Tire recycling and a continued effort to have quick-service restaurants more effectively separate their waste marked the progress of our third mandate.

From lobster crates to newspaper tubes and more, value-added recycling continued to prove the value of our waste as a resource. In fiscal 2003, RRFB Nova Scotia contributed $820,000 to value-added projects across our province.

Education and public awareness are at the core of our 50 per cent waste diversion success. This year, we devoted $1.2 million to education and public awareness, and we saw the debut of Moby S. Loop, a robotic educational tool. We continued to green major events and succeeded on a grassroots level to increase knowledge and awareness about recycling and composting.

Fiscal 2003 was a year of continued progress down an established road of success in waste recovery. Together with all Nova Scotians, we have built upon our position as a world leader in recycling. This annual report tells some of these stories. As you read this, we are already well into fiscal 2004, a year that will undoubtedly be marked by further progress and change within our waste management strategy and system.

On behalf of RRFB Nova Scotia, I extend my thanks to the municipalities, to Enviro-Depots, to the provincial Department of Environment and Labour, to our employees, and most of all to Nova Scotians for their continued support, vision and guidance in environmental success.

It is with pride that I present the Resource Recovery Fund Board's seventh annual report, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2003.

D.R. Firth

Derek R. Firth, CA

Chief Operating Officer

103-06170/

MISSION

Ensure that the people of Nova Scotia receive the maximum environmental and economic benefits associated with responsible solid waste management by developing and administering sustainable industry stewardship programs that increase diversion, assist in the establishment of new industries based on the processing of materials diverted from the waste stream, and provide incentives to residents to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost.

Toward a waste-less province

■ The story of waste recovery in Nova Scotia is not unlike that of an experienced and resourceful farmer. With almost everyone across the province helping in one way or another, we are properly managing our solid waste resource, and cultivating very real success for a cleaner, healthier environment.

Every year, waste-resource recovery grows. One recycled container and one compost bin at a time, we have become a world leader for the environment – reducing our per-capita waste disposal to the lowest in the country.

It is a record of which we should be very proud, but it has not happened overnight. Our continual progress toward becoming a waste-less province is part of a long-term vision for Nova Scotia in our Solid Waste-Resource Management Strategy. And look at the progress – a beverage container deposit/refund system, a growing environmental industry, province-wide education and awareness programs, growth in value-added use of recycled materials and comprehensive municipal recycling programs.

Fiscal 2003 was no exception. It was a year of staying the course in managing our solid waste resources. The stories of successes and updates are documented in this annual report.

We are making progress – thanks to the cooperation of Nova Scotians, government and industry.

The forecast for waste-resource recovery in Nova Scotia continues to be bright. With the seed of solid waste-resource management well rooted in Nova Scotia, our environmental leadership can only grow stronger and greener in the future.

Solid Waste Quick Tip	no 01

LEAVE YOUR GARDEN A LITTLE TREAT

Leaves can be used in the garden as mulch. Just rake and apply – the natural nutrients in the leaves will be gobbled up by your plants.

2003 MOBIUS WINNERS

The RRFB's Mobius Awards recognize Nova Scotia organizations and individuals who have made a significant contribution toward protecting our environment.

This year the awards had an additional twist – they were presented by hockey legend Guy Lafleur.

The Mobius award winners for 2002-2003 were:

Business of the Year
Frito Lay Canada - Kentville

Institution of the Year
Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre, Waterville

Industry Steward of the Year
Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia

Innovation in Waste Management
Salmon River Salmon Association, Meteghan River

Waste Management Education
Waste Reduction Education Team, Cape Breton Region

Individual Excellence in Waste Management
David Arenburg, Adcor Marketing, Yarmouth

Region of the Year
Western Region, Waste Check

ENVIRO-DEPOT™ of the Year
Comeau's Bottle Exchange, Meteghan Centre

Tire Retailer of the Year
A-1 Tires Limited, Truro

Hauler of the Year
Guthro's Garbage Collection Limited, Guysborough

School of the Year
Gold River - Western Shore Elementary School

Best Community-Based Project
Earth Day Challenge, Region 6, South Shore

Volunteer of the Year
Lucie Gaudet, Saint Bernard

REACHING INTO ALL CORNERS OF NOVA SCOTIA

MANDATE 1

FUND MUNICIPAL OR REGIONAL WASTE DIVERSION PROGRAMS

In fiscal 2003, RRFB Nova Scotia returned $7.3 million, or 71 per cent of net revenues, to Nova Scotia's 55 municipalities. Once again, the municipalities put these funds to great use.

Waste is handled just a little bit differently in each of the seven regions of the province – but the one constant across all of them is a commitment to environmental leadership, and to seeing our province maintain its position as an environmental champion.

It was a busy year in all corners of the province for solid waste-resource management. Here is a snapshot of how the funds were used in each region

REGION 1 – Cape Breton

In fiscal 2003, Cape Breton Solid Waste Resource Management was a leader in developing creative, unique and effective environmental education programs. The region entered a unique training partnership with all seven Cape Breton Sobeys stores to train cashiers on how to answer recycling questions and distribute recycling sort sheets. A television commercial developed by the region focused on a recycling message that was very effective, and won a national advertising award. A live-action play about recycling was developed for school-age children and met with rave reviews. Media relations, residential visits, a curbside compliance program, a radio contest, workshops and more rounded out a very successful year that saw Region 1 win a Mobius award for Waste Management Education.

REGION 2 – Eastern

Region 2A – Expansion and growth were themes in Region 2A in fiscal 2003. The Town of Antigonish began an organics collection program, and issued green carts for all residences, including houses and multi-unit dwellings of up to four units. In the Municipality of the District of Guysborough, the composting facility was expanded to handle an additional 700 metric tonnes, to better service residents and the industrial, commercial, and institutional (IC&I) sector.

Region 2B – Pictou County continued to promote waste reduction through enhanced education programs in schools and businesses, as well as outreach events. Active involvement with restaurants, quick-service outlets, and the IC&I sector has provided guidance and leadership in Region 2B. The addition of a new star screener has greatly improved the quality of compost produced at the Mount William Landfill site. These projects were all supported, in part, through RRFB funding.

REGION 3 – Northern

The Colchester Material Recycling Facility processed almost 12,000 metric tonnes of recyclables in fiscal 2003. Recyclables are received from the Municipality of East Hants, and from Antigonish, Guysborough, Pictou, Colchester, Annapolis and Kings Counties. The Colchester composting facility received 4,000 metric tonnes of organics for processing. During the Compost Giveaway Program in May, many residents got 100 kilograms each of the "black gold" absolutely free. Progress continued in the removal of derelict vehicles from private properties in the Municipality

of East Hants and Colchester. Also, East Hants residents and businesses diverted 1,100 metric tonnes of recyclables and 1,400 tonnes of organics.

In Cumberland County, Cumberland Joint Services Management Authority processed more than 1,500 metric tonnes of organics and 2,600 tonnes of recyclables. In addition, new curbside organics collection programs were launched in Amherst, Springhill and Oxford.

REGION 4 – Halifax Regional Municipality

In fiscal 2003, hungry worms were a big winner in HRM with the installation of a vermicomposting unit at the administration building in Dartmouth. Eating half their weight in food scraps a day, the red wigglers turn food scraps from the building into humus, a nutrient-rich soil conditioner. Bylaws on construction and demolition (C&D) waste were amended to require that 60 per cent of C&D waste be reused. The region enjoyed a 20 per cent expansion of the household hazardous waste service operating days, including two days of mobile service to the eastern parts of the region. A new 5-year residential waste collection contract was also signed – a deal worth $38 million, and priceless in environmental benefits.

REGION 5 – Annapolis Valley

In fiscal 2003, Valley Waste-Resource Management purchased a roll-off truck to increase efficiency in the region. The active search for Second Generation landfill capacity for residual waste to meet the Department of Environment and Labour's January 2006 deadline was a major theme throughout the year. The Authority also focused on striking a realistic balance between public education and bylaw enforcement. Staff conducted numerous curbside inspections, IC&I waste inspections, and residential visits. The Authority also achieved its first successful convictions for infractions under the bylaw, one for improper waste-resource sorting and one for improper storage of waste resources at an apartment building.

REGION 6 – South Shore

Thanks to activities in Region 6, customers are not the only ones full after meals at quick-service restaurants across the region. Work with restaurants continued, as more establishments were educated about the source separation issue.

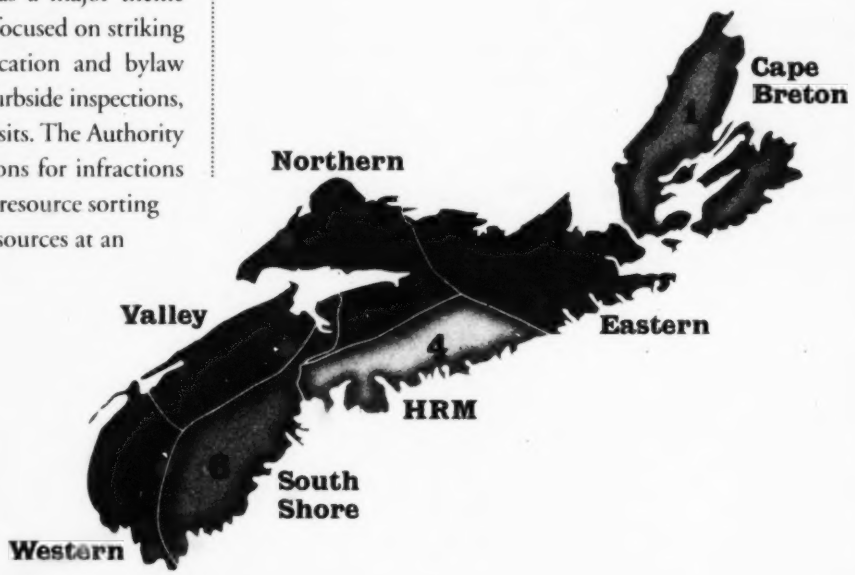
One of the major quick-service restaurants, Tim Hortons, has been a leader in source separation of their restaurant waste. Since 2000, the staff in the Bridgewater area have been clearing tables and separating the waste for customers.

On the litter side of things, Tim Hortons played a major role in supporting the region's Earth Day Challenge. On April 23rd, 1,600 people from across the region collected more than 2,200 kg of litter, which made the Earth Day Challenge the overwhelming choice to win the Mobius Award for Best Community-Based Project.

REGION 7 – Western

The Western Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority – or Waste Check as the region is known – is the smallest of the seven regions, serving just 55,000 residents. The region took the lead in fiscal 2003 by conducting several workshops for the IC&I sector of the region. The workshops focused on educating workplaces about the value of the 3Rs and composting. To further help the IC&I sector, Waste Check completed a 20-page bilingual booklet directed at developing waste reduction strategies.

Waste Check also worked with the local Tim Hortons franchisee to develop a prototype source separation container that has now been introduced province-wide at all Tim's locations. Such leadership with the IC&I sector helped Waste Check win the Mobius Award for Region of the Year.



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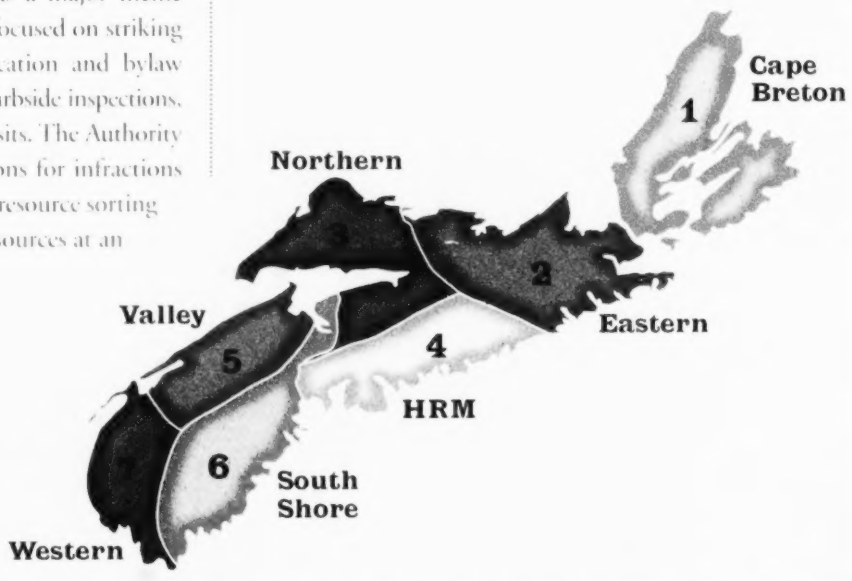


THIRSTY FOR USED BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

MANDATE 2

DEVELOP & OPERATE A DEPOSIT/REFUND SYSTEM FOR BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

Having passed the 1 billion container mark last year, the RRFB continued its second mandate in fiscal 2003, with a dual-focused action plan: To develop an ENVIRO-DEPOT™ policy and standards manual to increase standards of operation and appearance, and to continue to provide ready access to recycling facilities for all Nova Scotians.

Thanks to the RRFB's second mandate, Enviro-Depots are nearly everywhere you look in Nova Scotia.

Jerome Paris, RRFB Director of Operations, says participation in beverage container recycling continues to grow in Nova Scotia. More than 233 million containers were returned to the province's Enviro-Depots in fiscal 2003, along with thousands of litres of used paint, car batteries, residential corrugated cardboard and more.

"Eighty-seven per cent of households are within 20 kilometres of an ENVIRO-DEPOT™," Mr. Paris points out. "That's something we are proud of."

In general, fiscal 2003 was a year of continuing along an established, solid path of beverage container deposit, refund and recycling.

From one Champion to Another

Hockey legend Guy Lafleur (right) was in Nova Scotia on Earth Day to present the Mobius Awards. Michel Comeau (centre) of Comeau's Bottle Exchange in Meteghan Centre won the award for ENVIRO-DEPOT™ of the year. Derek Firth, Chief Operating Officer of the RRFB, looks on.

On Earth Day – April 22, 2003 – at a ceremony in Dartmouth, hockey legend Guy Lafleur presented the Mobius Awards, including one for ENVIRO-DEPOT™ of the Year to Michel Comeau of Comeau's Bottle Exchange in Meteghan Centre.

Comeau is somewhat of a bottle return industry pioneer. Originally a family grocery store and bottle exchange, Comeau's Bottle Exchange has evolved to become a blue bag sorting station in 1994 and an ENVIRO-DEPOT™ in 1997.

"Comeau's Bottle Exchange is a clean and well-organized facility," says Mr. Paris. "There is an information area for

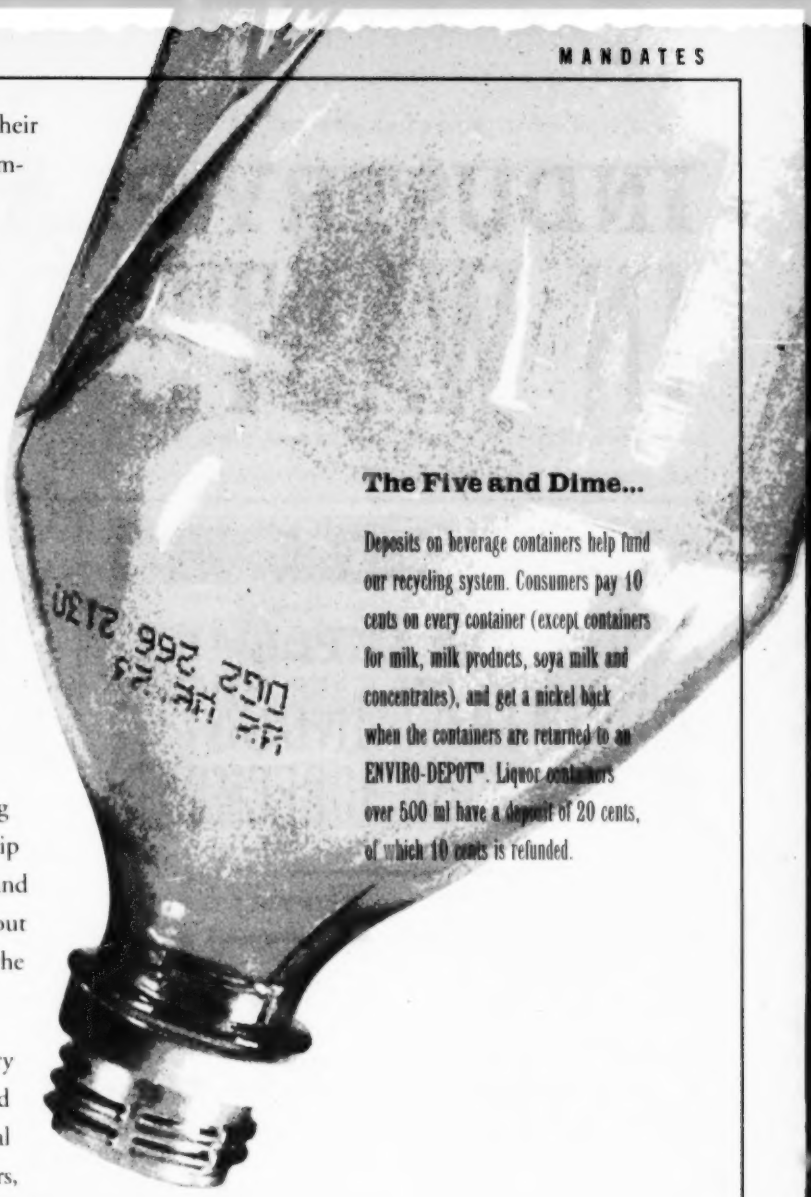
the public, and staff that go out of their way to help their customers. Michel Comeau and his staff are to be commended for their commitment to their community."

But it takes much more than Enviro-Depots to have a successful beverage container deposit and refund system. The RRFB continues to ensure accuracy and consistency in the deposit/refund program through a quality control program located at the materials recovery facility in Colchester County.

Once collected, the beverage containers go their separate ways. Plastic bottles are ground into flakes at Novapet in Amherst, and then sold to manufacturers across the continent. These companies use the flake to make products like T-shirts and carpet. Glass containers are crushed and sold for recycling, and aluminum is reprocessed into new cans.

Fiscal 2003 also marked the introduction of providing litter and recycling bags for visitors. The partnership with the provincial departments of Environment and Labour and Tourism and Culture saw litter bags handed out to tourists at Visitor Information Centres around the province.

RRFB's custom-designed ROCAPS 2000™ (Recovery Operations Collection and Payment System) continued to be marketed throughout North America in fiscal 2003. The system electronically tracks beverage containers, paint and tires that are recycled in Nova Scotia, and is used to pay vendors who are part of the program. RRFB Nova Scotia will continue to promote ROCAPS 2000™ to other recycling organizations across North America and at tradeshows and events.



The Five and Dime...

Deposits on beverage containers help fund our recycling system. Consumers pay 10 cents on every container (except containers for milk, milk products, soya milk and concentrates), and get a nickel back when the containers are returned to an ENVIRO-DEPOT™. Liquor containers over 500 ml have a deposit of 20 cents, of which 10 cents is refunded.

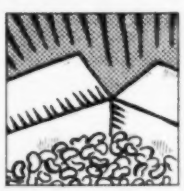
With a more than 80 per cent return rate, Nova Scotia's beverage container deposit and refund system is a further example of our leadership position in recycling.

"Our ENVIRO-DEPOT™ network is committed to meeting the recycling needs of Nova Scotians," says Mr. Paris.

Solid Waste Quick Tip	no 02

AVOID PACKAGING OVERKILL

Many products are over-packaged. In fact, packaging accounts for 1/3 of our garbage. Buy products that are economically packaged, so they'll create less of a problem for you and the environment.



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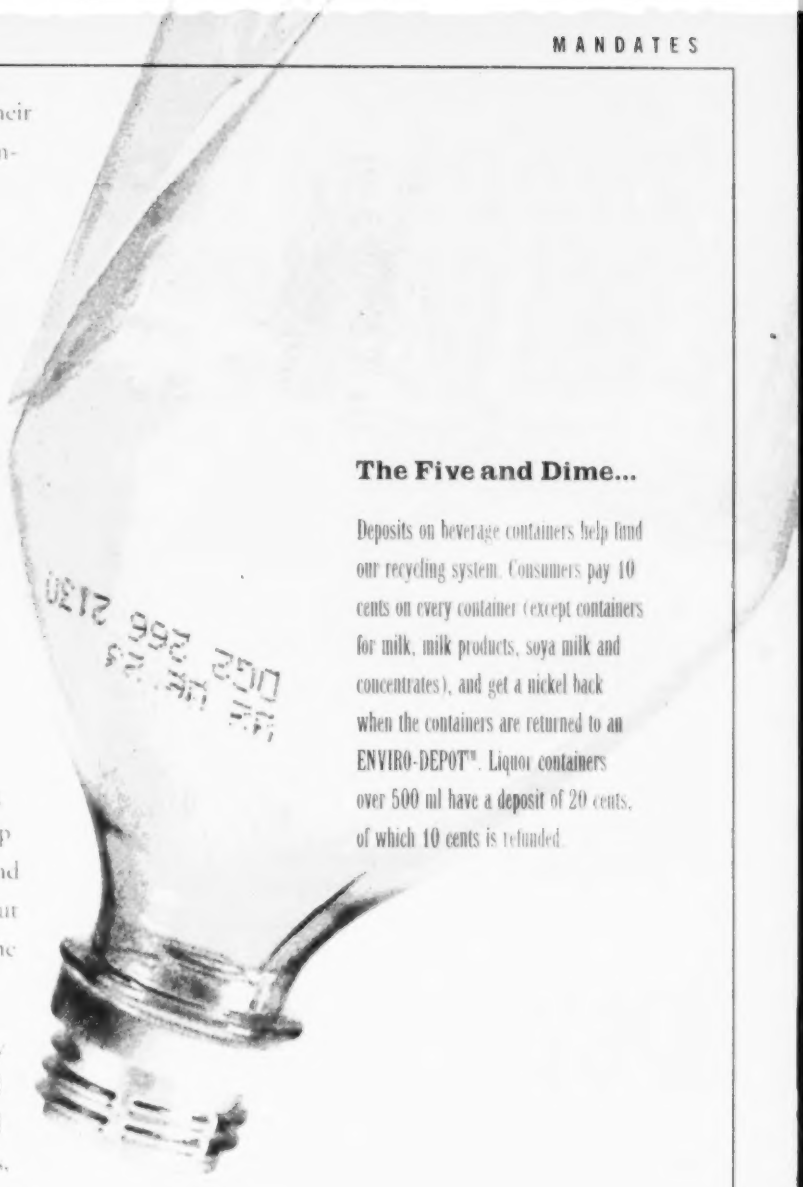

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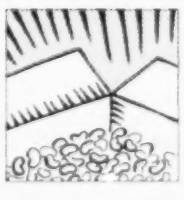


INDUSTRY PLAYS ITS PART IN WASTE DIVERSION

MANDATE 3

DEVELOP & IMPLEMENT VOLUNTARY INDUSTRY STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENTS

Environmental stewardship agreements are in place with a number of major industries across the province.

Nova Scotia's success in waste diversion is the result of a team effort – and some of the biggest players on our team are the many stewardship partners from various industries. Industry groups such as beverage distributors, dairies, newspaper publishers and pharmacies have recognized their important role in waste-resource management.

"Our industry stewards are valuable partners in recycling," says RRFB Chief Operating Officer, Derek Firth. "We have many partnerships in place and we continually strive for new ones."

Fiscal 2003 was also the first year for the Nova Scotia Paint Recycling Program. Launched in the summer of 2002 as a partnership between the Province and the paint industry, the new program made it possible to return leftover paint to Enviro-Depots. Nova Scotians buy more than 3 million cans of paint annually, and now all that leftover paint in the bottom of the can does not have to go to waste.

The inaugural year of the program was a resounding success – more than 114,000 cans of paint were returned and recycled into new paint by the Paint Recycling Company in Springhill, a division of Laurentide Inc.

"The paint recycling program is a perfect example of industry stewardship at work," says RRFB Chief Operating Officer, Derek Firth.

Not quite as colourful but also rolling right along in fiscal 2003 was the RRFB's Used Tire Management Program. Nine hundred tire retailers across the province are registered under the program, and charge a recycling fee on new tires sold.

More than 4.7 million tires have been diverted from landfills since the program was introduced in 1997. Tires are processed into crumb rubber, which is used in the manufacture of underlay for sports fields and frost protection on road bases.

Mr. Firth says industry has an important role to play in recycling, and adds that the RRFB will continue to seek out more industry stewardship agreements in coming years.

In fiscal 2003, the RRFB also focused on getting quick-service restaurants to step up to the plate and become more environmentally friendly. Quick-service or "fast-food" restaurants are a visible producer of waste, particularly organics. Getting that waste separated into the proper channels has been a focus across the province. The food court in the Bridgewater Mall has set the example for other public spaces in Nova Scotia. The Mall has properly separated its waste for the past several years.

"The success in our region is a result of individual contact with restaurant owners," says Valda Walsh, spokesperson for Region 6 Solid Waste Management on the South Shore.

The RRFB has commissioned a study to develop a strategy to better handle solid waste in quick service restaurants across the Province.

The RRFB also supported a new program in fiscal 2003 for waste separation at Provincial parks and day-use areas. Park users must now separate their waste into recycling stations at parks across the province.

The Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia (PANS) was also a happy camper on April 22, 2003, when they were recognized

as Industry Steward of the Year. PANS is a major partner in the Safe Sharps Bring-Back Program, one of the RRFB's ongoing industry stewardship agreements. In partnership with the Canadian Diabetes Association and municipalities, the Safe Sharps Program helps ensure the safe disposal of used household sharps (syringes, needles and lancets) by providing free containers to residential users.

Solid Waste Quick Tip no 03

SOMEONE WILL PROBABLY TAKE THAT SEAT

Have a yard sale or take your furniture to a second-hand store instead of throwing it away. You'll be saving the environment, and hey, you might even make a buck or two.

ROBOT POWERS EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS

MANDATE 4

DEVELOP EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OF SOURCE REDUCTION, REUSE, RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

Moby S. Loop, RRFB Nova Scotia's teaching robot highlights 2003.

If you think recycling containers cannot talk, you have not met Moby S. Loop.

The four-foot robot, a perfect replica of a recycling can, joined the education and public awareness team in July 2002 – and talking about waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting is Moby's main job.

Named for the Mobius loop, the one-sided never-ending symbol of recycling, Moby travels around the province to school and youth groups, festivals and trade shows.

Fully mobile, Moby is controlled remotely by an operator, who can talk through Moby and listen to responses via a two-way radio system. With eyes and eyebrows that move, a flashing mouth, moveable arms and a siren, Moby makes education fun and entertaining, especially for children.

"Moby has been quite a hit," says Director of Communications, Catherine McCarthy. "People will listen to Moby's messages about the environment better than they will to a person. Moby's a big part of our education team."

Moby S. Loop is a four-foot recycling robot, introduced in 2002 as a member of RRFB Nova Scotia's education and public awareness team.

Moby S. Loop is just one of the successes under education and public awareness, the fourth mandate of RRFB Nova Scotia. More than $1.2 million is committed to this crucial function in maintaining Nova Scotia's reputation as a world leader in reducing waste, recycling and composting.

RRFB Nova Scotia coordinates a host of province-wide education and public awareness initiatives. From brochures and poster campaigns to advertising and a toll-free recycling help line, RRFB Nova Scotia plays a valuable role in helping Nova Scotians remember the value of waste-resource management.

"It's been a successful year," says Education Officer, Alanna Nelson. "We've had both new initiatives and growth in our existing programs. We're playing an important role, and we're making a very clear impact."

One of those ongoing successes is the Recycling Help Line at 1-877-313-RRFB (7723). This toll-free number offers Nova Scotians assistance with recycling and composting questions, and has seen an increase in use – almost 4,000 calls were answered in fiscal 2003.

The Nova Scotia Recycles Day Contest, held every year in Nova Scotia as a part of National Waste Reduction Week, was another huge success. The contest, for school-aged children in the Province, invited students to design stickers, create postcards, develop crafts from trash and author essays. More than $24,000 in prizes, including scholarships for Grade 12 winners, were presented to winning students and their schools at regional celebrations around the province. In fiscal 2003, RRFB Nova Scotia received 7,000 entries – more than double the entries of the previous year.

"That kind of increase tells me education and awareness is a real pillar to the overall success of our waste management initiatives in the province," says Nelson.

In fiscal 2003, the RRFB, in partnership with municipal waste reduction staff, made more than 700 visits to businesses and classrooms around the province to talk about waste management and composting.

Efforts to "green" major events also continued. The popular Event Greening Guide was revamped, as the RRFB reached out to event organizers to help them deal with waste at major festivals and events. Hundreds of events across the province have been "greened" since the guide was implemented last year.

Other publications were also in high demand – and not just within the province. Organizations from both the U.S. and Canada have asked for copies of Pattie Pitter, an educational storybook about a girl who hates litter, and the Creative Conservation Craft Book, a guide to making crafts out of recyclable material. With Nova Scotia's leadership on the world recycling scene, it is perhaps not surprising. The newest addition to RRFB Nova Scotia's educational material is the "Learn to be a Leader in Recycling" activity book. The book includes a variety of fun activity sheets and games that challenge students to learn more about the 3Rs and composting.

RRFB also works with partners, such as the Eco-Efficiency Centre and Clean Nova Scotia on a variety of initiatives. For example, RRFB and the Eco-Efficiency Centre developed the Nova Scotia Materials Exchange, which is an on-line marketplace to buy, sell or trade useable materials that would otherwise end up in municipal landfills. RRFB Nova Scotia also once again partnered with Clean Nova Scotia to produce the Planet Action Club for Kids newsletter and to conduct the Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up, a litter abatement program.

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT HEALTHY ECONOMY

MANDATE 5

PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF VALUE-ADDED MANUFACTURING IN NOVA SCOTIA

Don't look now, but there's a lobster in that tire.

Bartlett Plastics and Precision Machining in Truro, one of the RRFB's partners in value-added manufacturing, uses recycled rubber along with other materials to create revolutionary holding facilities for lobster.

Bartlett re-melts a mixture of rubber and plastic at temperatures of 370 degrees Fahrenheit (two times hotter than a pot of lobster chowder) before injecting it into moulds. The interlocking lobster pens – about the size of a traditional lobster crate – are divided into tubes, with each lobster sharing a tube with a roommate. They are put in a holding tank not far from the ocean, where seawater is pumped in to approximate the lobster's natural habitat.

"It's like a little condo in there," says Bartlett Plastics president, Todd Langille. The program took off in fiscal 2003, and this spring marks the first full lobster season the pens have been in use – primarily at a lobster holding and live sales facility in Shag Harbour.

The pens replace clunkier metal cages, which rusted, often damaged the lobster and created disposal problems. Their creation has added value for lobster companies, which often need to hold lobster catches live for extended periods.

Lightweight, easy to clean and providing easy access to the lobster, the pens make for healthy lobsters – AND a healthy environment.

Bartlett also makes newspaper tubes from partially recycled materials for the Halifax Herald, and constantly investigates other avenues for recycled products.

"We're always looking at new opportunities," Mr. Langille says.

Value-added manufacturing is a primary mandate for the RRFB. In fiscal 2003, the Board provided more than $820,000 to nine value-added projects.

Paint recycling continued to showcase value-added recycling in living colour in 2003. The Paint Recycling Company, the official recycler of used paint across the province, is one of only six North American companies specializing in the recovery of leftover paint. In fiscal 2003, more than 144,000 litres of new paint was produced using leftovers from across the province.

"A lot of consumers are very happy that you can bring leftover paint back to an ENVIRO-DEPOT™," says Jerome Paris, Director of Operations for RRFB Nova Scotia.

RRFB Chief Operating Officer, Derek Firth says the value-added program has helped create new jobs in Nova Scotia, and adds that Nova Scotians often don't realize the many ways recycled products are used.

"Pop bottles are turned into T-shirts, newspaper becomes kitty litter, and recycled tires are used on sports fields," Firth says. "There are many interesting uses for recycled materials, and they find their way back into our lives as products we may not even notice."

Research and development continued to be a focus for the RRFB in fiscal 2003. Side by side with expert researchers, RRFB continued to evaluate the effectiveness of crushed glass in water filtration, and how tire "fluff" might reduce the weight of pre-cast concrete while increasing its sound absorption. They also looked at how municipal compost facilities across the province can produce a higher quality compost product.

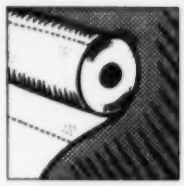
"Our solid waste is truly a resource," says Mr. Firth. "We continually seek out new initiatives that can not only lead to new products, but to jobs and economic development for our province."

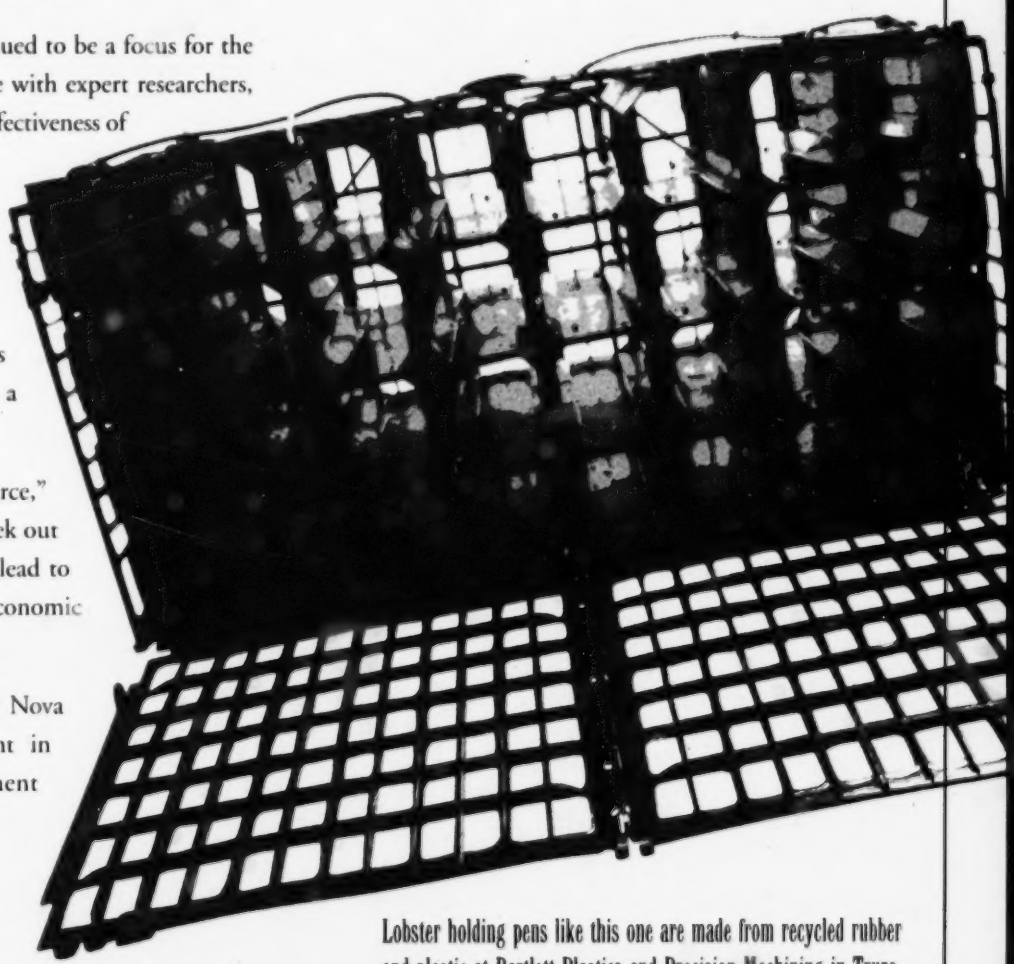
The RRFB's goal is to maximize Nova Scotia's return on its investment in solid waste-resource management industries.

Solid Waste Quick Tip	no 04

AVOID DISPOSABLES

Paper towels. Paper plates. Napkins. Paper cups. Sure, you don't have to do dishes – but the environment ends up a whole lot dirtier. Use re-usable products when you can.





Lobster holding pens like this one are made from recycled rubber and plastic at Bartlett Plastics and Precision Machining in Truro.

Mind-boggling Metamorphosis

The things we recycle and compost in Nova Scotia end up in some pretty interesting places...

Who would have thought it? You throw a pop bottle in the recycling bin, and the next thing you know it ends up as a T-shirt. You take your used tires back to the dealer, and they end up creating a new soccer field.

The "great circle of recycling" is an interesting eco-continuum... full of tidbits you may not have known!

Tires and tubes

One of the many uses for recycled tires is the creation of those black, tubular newspaper holders found beside mailboxes in rural Nova Scotia. The tubes are created from chipped tire rubber by Bartlett Plastics and Precision Machining in Truro.

Great taste in fashion

Plastic beverage containers are broken down and used in the creation of T-shirts. This process starts at Novapet in Amherst, where bottles are flaked in preparation for manufacturing. Who knows – you could be wearing a pop bottle right now.

Putting a little bounce in their step

Recycled tires have many uses. One of them is for athletic fields and tracks around the province. Chipped rubber is mixed with other materials to create track-and-field facilities, and can also be mixed into the artificial turf material on larger fields. At St. Francis Xavier University soccer field in Antigonish, finely crumbed rubber was mixed with other material and then sod was laid on top – a man-made cushion to a natural field.

Extra, extra absorbent

The recycled pages of newsprint are broken down and processed into environmentally friendly kitty litter.

Back again in living colour

Hundreds of thousands of gallons of leftover paint are recycled. The formula of paint is such that our leftovers can be used again in the manufacture of new paint. This is done by The Paint Recycling Company, a division of Laurentide Inc.

Talk about flooring it...

Recycled tire chips are used in the manufacture of some kinds of carpet underlay.

Getting a kick out of composting

Compost is applied to soccer, football and other sports fields to keep them green, healthy and perfect for the big game.

...and that's just a few! As RRFB Nova Scotia continues investing in value-added recycling and finding new ways to turn our waste into a resource, the great circle of waste recovery will only continue to grow.

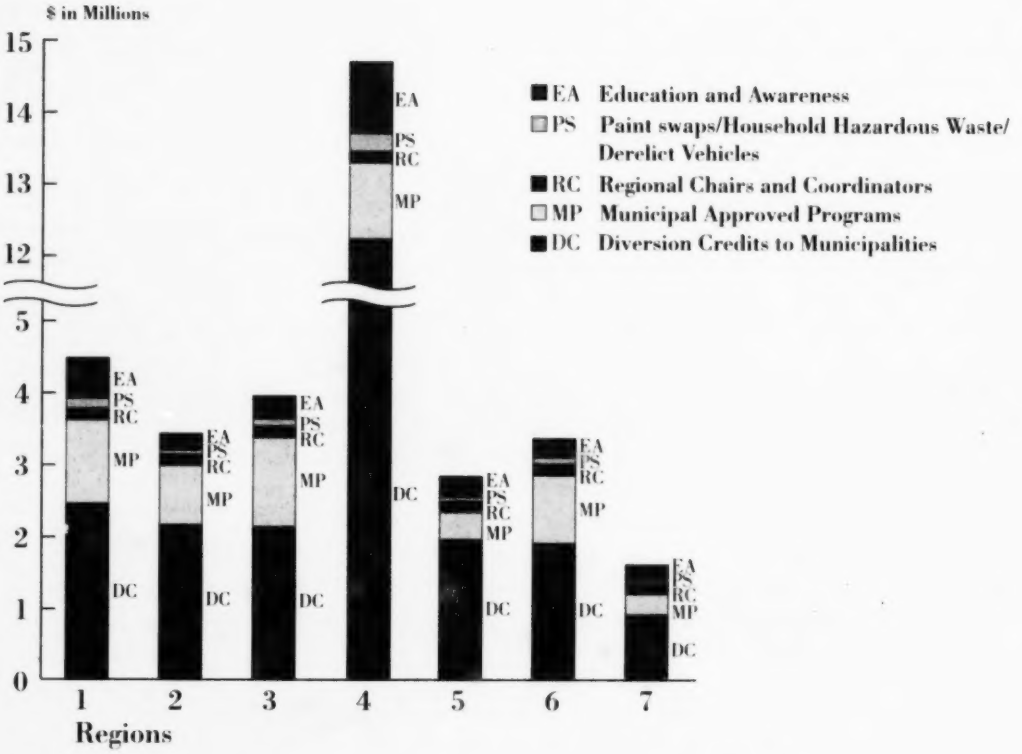
Solid Waste Quick Tip — no 05

LET RECYCLING IN TO YOUR APARTMENT BUILDING

Apartment dwellers can still recycle, even if there is no program in their building. Take your bottles to an ENVIRO-DEPOT™ or donate them to charity. And talk to your super about setting up a recycling program... it's easier than you think.

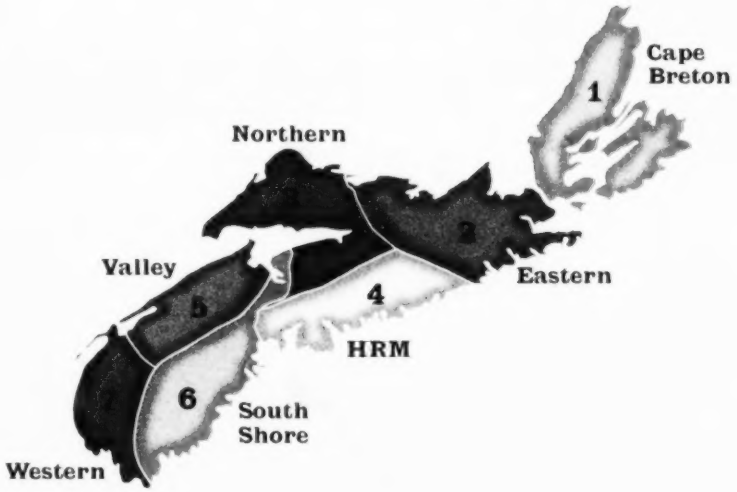
At-a-Glance

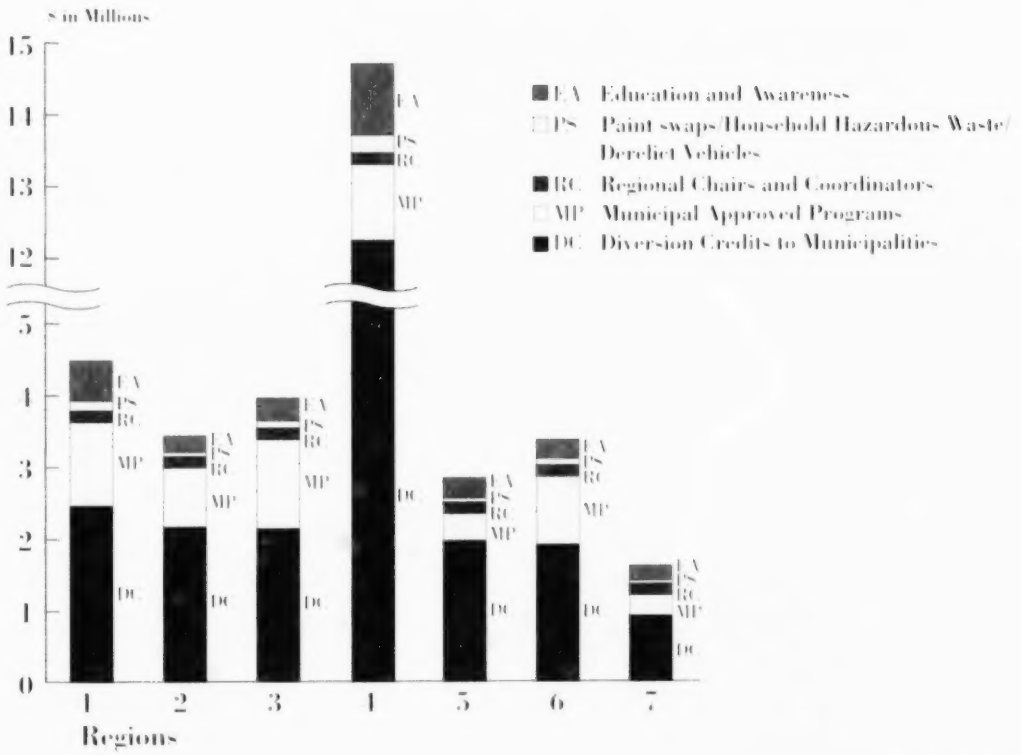
Municipal funding from the RRFB across our 7 regions, 1999-2003.



At-a-Glance

Municipal funding from the RRFB across our 7 regions, 1999-2003.





Glossary

A handy collection of good-to-know terms about solid waste-resource management.

BACKYARD COMPOSTER
A special unit used for composting yard waste and kitchen scraps in your own backyard.

REGIONAL PROCESSING CENTRES
RRFB Nova Scotia operates four regional processing centres where all bottles, cans and recyclables are shipped after they have been counted and sorted by the Enviro-Depots.

COMPOSTABLES
Divided into kitchen scraps or leaves, compostables are organic material that can be left to the natural decomposition process, forming compost – a valuable soil additive.

DEPOSIT
The extra fee paid on most beverage containers in Nova Scotia. On most containers it's 10 cents – five cents is refunded to the customer upon return. Some larger containers have a deposit of 20 cents, of which 10 cents is refunded.

DERELICT VEHICLE
An abandoned vehicle that is left to fall apart, cluttering the landscape and polluting the environment. RRFB Nova Scotia has a program in place to deal with derelict vehicles – more than 1,877 were recovered in fiscal 2003.

DIVERSION FUNDING
The RRFB provides funding to municipalities across the province, called diversion funding. In fiscal 2003, this amounted to $5.6 million out of a total of $7.3 million in total funding to municipalities. This funding is based on the amount of waste diverted from landfill sites, as set out by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME).

DIVERSION RATE
The percentage of waste diverted from landfill sites. Nova Scotians divert half of their solid waste and convert that waste into a resource.

ENVIRO-DEPOT™
One of the 87 small businesses across Nova Scotia that accept beverage containers, left-over paint, car batteries and more.

MOBIUS LOOP
A strip with a twist that gives it the unique characteristic of having only one never-ending side. It is the universal symbol of recycling and also the namesake of Moby S. Loop, the robot educator of the RRFB.

NOVA SCOTIA MATERIALS EXCHANGE
An on-line marketplace through which Nova Scotians buy, sell and trade items that they would otherwise throw out, and which would end up in landfills.

PET
Polyethylene Terephthalate, the type of plastic used in beverage bottles. All PET plastic is sold to Novapet Inc., where it is prepared for further processing.

ROCAPS 2000™
First developed by RRFB Nova Scotia in 1996, the Recovery Operations Collection And Payment System or ROCAPS 2000™ tracks recyclables such as beverage containers, tires and paint. The state-of-the-art program has the capacity to electronically process more than 1 million field transactions and 15,000 payments to vendors annually.

SHARPS
Needles, syringes and lancets used by diabetics and other patients. RRFB Nova Scotia has an agreement with the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia for the safe return and disposal of sharps.

SOURCE SEPARATION
One of the first steps in solid waste-resource management, source separation is the separation of waste, compostables and recyclables at their original source – whether that's in your kitchen, your garage, in quick service restaurants or at "green" events.

TIRE CRUMB
After they are returned to a tire dealer, used tires are sent to a recycling plant near Truro. Tires are shredded, frozen, and chipped into tiny bits called tire crumb before entering the next stage of the reycling process.

VERMICOMPOSTING
Composting with worms. Red wigglers eat more than half their weight in garbage every day, creating a nutrient-rich compost in the process. Vermicomposting is great for classrooms and apartment buildings.

Solid Waste Quick Tip | no 06

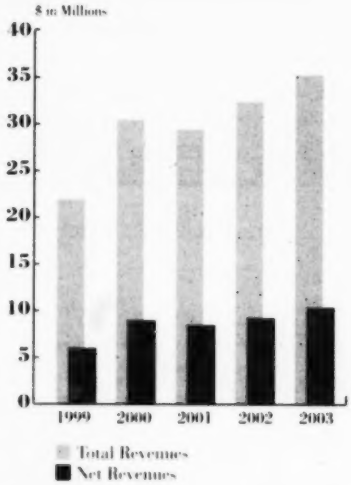
PILE UP YOUR BACKYARD COMPOST TO AT LEAST A CUBIC METRE.

Composting is a biological process that takes space and creates heat. At least a cubic metre of compost is needed to maintain the conditions for ideal compost production.

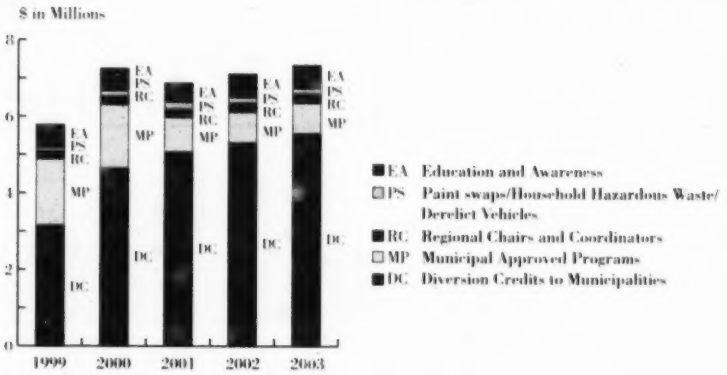
Financial Reports

Operating Results & Distribution of Net Revenues

Operating Results



Distribution of Net Revenues



Auditors Report

To the Board of Directors of Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc.:

We have audited the statement of financial position of Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc. as at March 31, 2003 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc. as at March 31, 2003 and the results of its operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Truro, Nova Scotia

Grant Thornton LLP

May 9, 2003 Chartered Accountants

Statement of Financial Position

March 31	2003	2002
Assets		
Current		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 14,319,338	$ 12,687,844
Receivables	3,244,495	3,089,938
Accrued interest receivable	32,306	18,143
Inventory	79,351	91,461
Prepaids	133,477	42,270
	17,808,967	15,929,656
Investment in affiliated company (Note 3)	203,845	7,000
Equipment (Note 4)	861,035	748,069
Note receivable from an affiliated company (Note 6)	150,000	–
Organizational costs, net of accumulated amortization	113,222	31,749
	$ 19,137,069	$ 16,716,474
Liabilities		
Current		
Payables and accruals	$ 4,214,494	$ 3,161,057
Municipal solid waste diversion credits payable	5,560,000	5,319,008
Unearned revenue	3,406,300	3,502,400
	13,180,794	11,982,465
Net Assets		
Invested in capital assets	974,257	779,818
Invested in value-added manufacturing	203,845	7,000
Restricted for future projects	1,995,344	1,609,507
Restricted for approved programs	2,782,829	2,337,684
	5,956,275	4,734,009
	$ 19,137,069	$ 16,716,474

Commitments (Note 7)

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

On behalf of the Board — Darrell Hiltz, Director — Lloyd Matheson, Director

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended March 31

Net Assets	Invested in Capital Assets	Invested in Value-Added Manufacturing	Restricted for Future Projects	Restricted for Approved Programs
Balance, beginning of year	$ 779,818	$ 7,000	$ 1,609,507	$ 2,337,684
Excess of revenue over expenses	(284,284)	(172,355)	—	—
Investment in capital assets	478,723	—	—	—
	974,257	(165,355)	1,609,507	2,337,684
Internally imposed restrictions	—	—	—	5,186,039
Investment in value-added manufacturing	—	369,200	(369,200)	—
Payments during the year				
Education and awareness	—	—	—	(1,164,460)
Regional chairs and co-ordinators	—	—	—	(242,500)
Approved programs	—	—	755,037	(2,333,934)
Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour	—	—	—	(1,000,000)
Allocation to Municipal solid waste diversion payable	—	—	—	—
Balance, end of year	$ 974,257	$ 203,845	$ 1,995,344	$ 2,782,829

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Statement of Operations

Year Ended March 31	2003	2002
Revenues		
Deposits		
Gross revenues from deposits	$ 28,977,029	$ 28,965,713
Less: Harmonized Sales Tax	(356,777)	(3,823,437)
	28,620,252	25,142,276
Sales of recyclable materials	3,121,194	3,493,840
Stewardship	656,202	150,328
Tire program	3,032,970	2,966,619
Total Revenues	35,430,618	31,753,063
Cost of Sales		
Inventory, beginning of year	91,461	74,724
Deposit refunds	11,722,871	10,703,163
ENVIRO-DEPOT™ handling fees	6,980,209	6,447,877
Local cartage	920,333	818,734
Regional processing	856,606	808,456
Freight-in	140,096	119,235
Central processing expenses	515,678	422,377
Non-deposit materials	35,825	29,889
Used tires	2,030,944	2,240,283
Derelict vehicle program	57,140	18,214
Paint/Household Hazardous Waste programs	746,918	144,404
	24,104,081	21,827,356
Less inventory, end of year	79,351	91,461
	24,024,730	21,735,895
Gross margin	11,405,888	10,017,168
Administrative expenses	1,146,454	1,117,168
Operating Income	10,259,434	8,900,000
Interest and other income	307,083	505,776
	10,566,517	9,405,776
Equity in net loss of an affiliated company	(172,355)	–
Excess of revenues over expenses	$ 10,394,162	$ 9,405,776

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

		2003	2002
	Net Revenues	Total	Total
	$ —	$ 4,734,009	$ 4,427,227
	10,850,301	10,394,162	9,405,776
	(478,723)	—	—
	10,372,078	15,128,171	13,833,003
	(5,136,039)	—	—
	—	—	—
	—	(1,164,460)	(1,176,237)
	—	(242,500)	(230,528)
	373,961	(1,204,936)	(1,439,109)
	—	(1,000,000)	(934,112)
	(5,560,000)	(5,560,000)	(5,319,093)
	$ —	$ 5,956,275	$ 4,734,009

Solid Waste Quick Tip — no 07

PROOFREAD MORE CLOSELY

Re-printing because of typos costs paper. Try to make sure documents are correct before you print. And when you do have to reprint, be selective about the pages you send to the printer.

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31	2003	2002
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents:		
Operating		
Excess of revenues over expenses	$ 10,394,162	$ 9,405,776
Equity in net loss of an affiliated company	172,355	—
Depreciation and amortization	280,147	218,073
Loss (Gain) on sale of equipment	4,137	(29,788)
	10,850,801	9,594,061
Change in non-cash operating working capital		
Receivables	(168,720)	(573,549)
Inventory	12,110	(16,737)
Prepaids	(91,207)	(39,348)
Payables and accruals	1,294,429	578,957
Unearned revenue	(96,100)	347,300
	11,801,313	9,890,684
Investing		
Proceeds from sale of equipment	1,279	63,676
Purchase of		
Equipment	(379,249)	(291,530)
Organizational costs	(100,753)	(25,085)
Investment in value-added manufacturing	(369,200)	—
Issuance of note receivable to an affiliated company	(150,000)	—
	(997,923)	(252,939)
Allocation of net assets to:		
Municipal solid waste diversion	(5,560,000)	(5,319,008)
Approved programs	(3,611,896)	(3,779,986)
	(9,171,896)	(9,098,994)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	1,631,494	538,751
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	12,687,844	12,149,093
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	$ 14,319,338	$ 12,687,844

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Solid Waste Quick Tip | no 08

NOT EXTRA EXTRA BIODEGRADABLE

Many people think newsprint easily biodegrades – but experts have read the headlines on 40-year-old newspaper that was dug out of landfills. So get your story right the first time, and make sure your paper gets recycled.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Nature of operations

The Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc. is a not-for-profit company established by the Nova Scotia government to develop and administer industry stewardship programs that increase diversion, enable the establishment of new industries based on the processing of materials diverted from the waste stream, and provide incentives to the people of Nova Scotia to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

Depreciation
Rates and bases of depreciation applied to write-off the cost of equipment over their estimated lives are as follows:

Field equipment	20%, straight-line
Office and warehouse equipment	20%, straight-line
Computer hardware and software	33 1/3%, straight-line
Containers	
Bags	33 1/3%, straight-line
Tubs	10%, straight-line
Vehicles	33 1/3%, straight-line

Inventory
Inventory is valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

Unearned revenue
Unearned revenue represents deposits received from distributors for beverage containers that have not been returned for redemption. Unearned revenue consists of deposits received in the last sixty (60) days adjusted by the current year return rate.

Organizational costs
Organizational costs for new programs are amortized on a straight line basis over five years.

Income taxes
The company is exempt from income taxes under Section 149(1)(d) of the Canadian Income Tax Act.

Revenue recognition
Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc. follows the deferral method of accounting for revenue.

Investment in affiliated company
The company accounts for its investment in an affiliated company using the equity method.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, balances with banks and short term investments with maturity dates of 90 days or less. Bank borrowings are considered to be financing activities.

Financial instruments
Financial instruments include cash and cash equivalents, receivables, investment in affiliated company, note receivable from an affiliated company, payables and accruals and municipal solid waste diversion credits payable. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the company is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from financial instruments. The fair market value of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values.

Use of estimates
The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions about future events that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and related notes to the financial statements. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

3. Investment in affiliated company

Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc. has a 60.8% ownership in Novapet Inc., a company that processes polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic beverage bottles into a flake for resale.

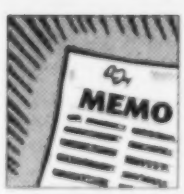
Novapet Inc. has not been consolidated in the Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc.'s financial statements. Financial summaries of Novapet Inc. as at March 31, 2003 are as follows:

Financial Position	
Total assets	$ 1,467,090
Total liabilities	$ 1,046,960
Shareholders' equity	420,130
	$ 1,467,090
Results of Operations	
Total revenues	$ 3,333,594
Total costs of goods sold and expenses	4,117,026
Net loss	$ (283,432)
Cash Flows	
Cash from operations	$ 113,440
Cash used in financing activities	27,529
Cash used in investing activities	(80,839)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	$ 60,130

Solid Waste Quick Tip | no 09

SEE PHOTOCOPYING FROM ALL SIDES

When photocopying, use the duplex function for documents of two or more pages. Better still, reduce photocopying in the first place by posting notices in a prominent place.



Notes to the Financial Statements

4. Equipment

	Cost	Accumulated Depreciation	2003 Net Book Value	2002 Net Book Value
Field equipment	$ 233,052	$ 130,796	$ 102,256	$ 149,755
Office and warehouse equipment	94,730	79,878	14,852	21,068
Leasehold improvements	12,407	5,956	6,451	8,224
Containers	1,178,868	587,769	591,099	444,022
Computer hardware and software	446,608	381,968	64,640	66,864
Vehicles	139,226	57,489	81,737	58,136
	$ 2,104,891	$ 1,243,856	$ 861,035	$ 748,069

5. Banking facilities

The company has an operating line of credit of $2,500,000, all of which is unused at March 31, 2003.

6. Note receivable from an affiliated company

	2003	2002
Note receivable from an affiliated company, due March 31, 2005, bearing interest at the prime commercial lending rate.	$ 150,000	$ —

7. Commitments

The company has entered into agreements to lease office space and a warehouse. Minimum rent payable for the next four years on these leases are as follows:

2004	$ 99,033
2005	$ 99,033
2006	$ 96,164
2007	$ 10,067

8. Related party transactions

During the year, the company had the following transactions with an affiliated company:

(a) Sold polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic beverage bottles in the amount of $562,992 to Novapet Inc. Included in trade accounts receivable is $104,491 owing from Novapet Inc. relating to these sales.

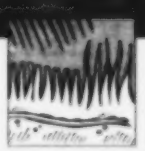
(b) During the year, the company issued an interest bearing $150,000 note receivable to Novapet Inc. Interest receivable in the amount of $5,000 relating to this note receivable is included in receivables. See Note 6.

(c) Included in payables is $66,667 owing to Novapet Inc.

(d) Incurred processing fees of $29,200 from Novapet Inc.

Solid Waste Quick Tip no 10

PRACTICE GRASSCYCLING



Let your lawn grow to about 6 centimetres and cut it more often, at no more than 1/3 its length. This will reduce your clippings, and make for a healthier lawn, too.

BOARD OF Directors

Darrell Hiltz
Chairman & Member of the Executive Committee

Lloyd Matheson
Warden, Municipality of East Hants
Member of the Executive Committee

Dwight Whynot
President, Scotia Recycling Ltd.
Executive Vice-President
Minas Basin Pulp & Power Co. Ltd.
Member of the Executive Committee

Gerard MacLellan
Executive Director of Environmental Monitoring and Compliance Division, Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour
Member of the Executive Committee

Bryan Smith
Chair, Western Region Solid Waste-Resource Management Authority

John O'Donnell
President & CEO,
Copol International

Jennifer Corson, M. Arch.
President
Renovator's Resource Inc.

Joann Perrott
Regional Circulation Sales Manager
Eastern Canada
The Globe and Mail

Tim Dietrich
Area Manager
Home Hardware Stores Limited

Poul Thomsen
Project Engineer
(Retired)

Mike Blanchard
President, Blanchard's Grocery Stores Ltd.
(Retired)

Code of Conduct Compliance

The Resource Recovery Fund Board Inc.'s (RRFB) Board of Directors and management have reviewed the Company's Code of Conduct and are satisfied that the Board of Directors' approach to corporate governance is consistent with the Code.

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Allura Communications & Marketing

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